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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

JUMP Newsletter, September 25, 2002

For September 2002 only, **JUMP**, the OPI assessment newsletter, will be in memo format. The newsletter format will resume in October.

New Assessment Web Page

OPI has reorganized its assessment web page. Phases 1 and 2 of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) are described with links to materials for each at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index.html>. JUMP newsletters and test results can be accessed from this page.

Online Test Data System Developed

In August of 2002, OPI changed the method of reporting test results online from a pdf format to an interactive online system. That system is being introduced in three stages:

Stage 1: Secure Search—August 2002

- Districts were notified of the secure search in August.
- The secure online search replaced the paper copies that were sent to districts in 2001.
- Using their user names and passwords, districts compared their online data with the printed district summary reports that Riverside provided in May and June.
- Districts then completed an approve/disapprove form online for data verification.
- As a secure search, accessible only by password, all student numbers (including groupings with fewer than six students) were included.
- The results are organized by state, district, school, grade, subject, and major disaggregations.
- This password accessible search continues to be available to districts for local use.

Stage 2: Simple Search—September 18, 2002

- Similar to the first stage, this search does not require a password.
- Assessment results for groupings of fewer than six students are not shown.

Stage 3: Complex Search—Date TBA

- Similar to the second stage, this search will feature the ability to combine disaggregations and will add other information.

2002 Iowa Test Results Are Released

Superintendent McCulloch released the 2002 Iowa test results on September 18. Her remarks are in a letter on the OPI web page: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/>

The results are presented online and are easily accessed from the assessment web page (the link is included in Superintendent McCulloch's online letter, <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index.html>).

- Preliminary statewide aggregated test results were published online in July. These are organized by grade, subject, and major disaggregations statewide in a pdf file.
- Stages 1 and 2 of the online test results system are available with instructions for use from the assessment web page, <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index.html> .
- Analyses of the statewide test results presented to the Board of Public Education September 12, 2002 include the following files in pdf format:
 - Introduction to the Board of Public Education
 - Introduction to the 2002 Iowa Test Results
 - 2002 Iowa Tests, Reading
 - 2002 Iowa Tests, Language Arts
 - 2002 Iowa Tests, Mathematics
 - 2002 Iowa Tests, Social Studies
 - 2002 Iowa Tests, Science

In addition, "How to Interpret 2002 Test Results," located with the test results files, presents guidelines on the use of the test results.

2003 Iowa Test Details

1. 2003 Iowa Testing Window

- The window for administering the 2003 Iowa Tests is March 10 – 28, 2003. Make-up tests are included in this window.
- The 2002 Special Session of the legislature allocated funds for the state to pay for the 2003 Iowa Tests in grades 4, 8, and 11. Therefore, schools will not incur this \$200,000 cost.
- Districts and the Office of Public Instruction will continue with the same procedures for materials for grades 4, 8, and 11. OPI will arrange with Riverside for materials for these grades.
- Training opportunities for material receipt and administering the tests will be announced in future JUMP newsletters.

2. New Montana Contact at Riverside

Kelly Hills will be the Riverside contact for Montana for the 2002-2003 school year. She replaces Karen Hines and Jennifer Boyd. Kelly can be reached at 1-800-323-9540 x 7090 or kelly_hills@hmco.com

3. New Test Coordinator?

If your district has a new test coordinator for the 2002-2003 school year, please notify the OPI assessment office by **October 15**. Please send the district name, new test coordinator name, and the phone number and email address for the new test coordinator to Lindy Miller at OPI: lindmiller@state.mt.us or fax: 406-444-3924.

Measured Progress/Criterion-Referenced Test Details

Thank you to districts for giving educators the opportunity to participate in the development of Montana's criterion-referenced test.

1. We need your help on the following:

Overview Workshops, Oct. 1, 2, and 3

We are hearing from more and more test coordinators and administrators, but we still need to hear from others to confirm attendance.

Be sure to fax the registration forms received in the mail to Measured Progress immediately.

Item Review Workshops, Nov. 4-5

A few spaces are still available. Please fax those registration forms to Measured Progress right away.

2. Pilot Test

There is much interest in the pilot of the criterion-referenced test in the spring of 2003. Details about the pilot will be announced after December 1.

Student Mathematics Proficiency Manual

The Commissioner of Higher Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Mathematics Proficiency Steering Committee recently mailed 4,000 copies of the *Student Mathematics Proficiency Manual* to Montana's high school mathematics departments. This manual features a page describing freshman mathematics course offerings for each of the Montana University System campuses, including tribal colleges; proficiency descriptors tied to the ACT test; and a set of math problems that college-ready students should be able to solve.

From the website at <http://www.montana.edu/mus/mathproficiency>, you can print additional copies of the manual from a pdf file. The website files will be periodically updated to reflect course changes in the university system. Additional printed leaflets and manuals are also available upon request.

The contact for this project is Jan Clinard, 444-0652 or jclinard@oche.montana.edu.